REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the outstanding Office Action. The Examiner's rejections are traversed. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weiss. (US 5,657,388).

Summary of Amendments to the Claims

Independent claims 1, 10, 15 and 21 have been amended to reflect that the claimed sets each include at least a plurality of elements (i.e., numbers or codes as the case may be).

Comments/Arguments

The present application is directed to a number and/or code dispenser or token. As disclosed, the numbers or codes dispensed are suitable for use in authentication applications, e.g., associated with commercial and/or other types of transactions. In one exemplary embodiment, the numbers/codes dispensed are "one-time use" numbers/codes. That is to say, after a dispensed number/code is used once, it is no longer valid. Significantly, in exemplary embodiments, the dispenser or token contains and/or stores a plurality of predetermined numbers/codes which are sequentially dispensed on demand. Suitably, the set of numbers/codes are generated by an external device and loaded onto the token or dispenser. In this manner, the token/dispenser is relieved of the computational burden of having to generate each number/code that is dispensed.

To use a suitable analogy, the token or dispenser of the present application is akin to the PEZ® candy dispenser. The numbers or codes are like the candy, both are pre-existing elements that are load into or otherwise merely contained by their respective dispensers. The PEZ® dispenser does not make the candy, and the current dispenser/token does not generate the numbers/codes. Rather, the current dispenser/token and the PEZ® dispenser merely store the candy or numbers/codes and output their respective contents on demand.

Conversely, Weiss is directed to a token which does not store or otherwise contain a plurality of numbers for dispensing. In fact, the explicit preference of Weiss is for the token **12** to "store as little information as possible." Col. 3, lines 29-30. This is opposed to the present application in which a plurality of numbers/codes are stored in the token/dispenser. In fact, this statement in Weiss teaches away from the present application.

In contrast to the present application, Weiss teaches a token **12** having a memory **18**, which in its simplest case "would contain only a secret user code **22**." Col. 4, lines 33-34. However, in some embodiments, the memory **18** may also "store a public code **24**, an algorithm **26** and/or a time-varying value **28**." Col. 4, lines 35-37. In accordance with the teachings of Weiss, the token **12** uses the algorithm and/or other stored elements to generate each number it outputs at the time it is requested. Alternately, an external token processor **14** generates the number each time it is requested. In any event, the token **12** does not contain or store a plurality of predetermined numbers or codes that are dispensed on demand. Note, neither the secret user code **22** nor the time-varying value **28** nor the public code **24** are ever dispensed (i.e., displayed or otherwise perceivably output). Rather, they are merely factors used to generate the nonpredictable code that is ultimately used for authorization or otherwise output.

To return to the prior analogy, the token **12** of Weiss does not function like a PEZ® dispenser. That is to say, it does not store a plurality of elements (i.e., candy or codes as the case may be) and dispense the stored elements on demand. Rather, the token **12** of Weiss is more akin to a candy maker which makes a new piece of candy each time one is requested, i.e., the token **12** of Weiss generates a new code each time one is requested. In any event, nowhere is it disclosed that the memory **18** of the Weiss token **12** stores a plurality of numbers or codes that are dispensed by the token **12**.

With reference now to specific claims, currently amended claims 1, 10 and 15 each call for: a set of predetermined numbers, the set including at least a plurality of numbers; a memory for storing the set of numbers; software for selecting and dispensing an unused number from the set; and, a display for displaying the dispensed number. Weiss fails to disclose the foregoing. More specifically, the memory **18** in the token **12** of Weiss does not store a plurality of numbers as claimed which are dispensed from and/or displayed by the token **12**. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that

claims 1, 10 and 15 distinguish patentably over the prior art, along with claims 2-9, 11-14 and 16-20 that depend therefrom.

Currently amended claim 21 is directed to a code dispensing device including storage means for storing a set of codes simultaneously, the set including at least a plurality of codes. A signaling means signals the dispensing device to dispense one of the codes from the set upon each activation of the signaling means, and a display means displays the dispensed codes. Again, Weiss fails to disclose such a code dispensing device. In particular, the memory **18** in the token **12** of Weiss does not store a plurality of codes as claimed which are dispensed from and/or displayed by the token **12**. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 21 distinguishes patentably over the prior art, along with claims 22-25 that depend therefrom.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, she is hereby authorized to call the undersigned at telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
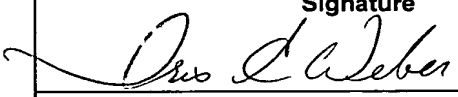MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

December 7, 2006
Date

John P. Cornely
Reg. No. 41,687
1100 Superior Avenue
7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2579
(216) 861-5582

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Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

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